



NEWS RELEASE

Central Idaho Dispatch
Salmon - Challis National Forest,
Salmon Field Office, Idaho Falls
District, BLM
1206 S. Challis St.
Salmon, Idaho 83467



~~Public and firefighter safety is the highest priority in fighting all wildland fires.~~

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FIRE UPDATE

July 8, 2008

The 2008 fire season started last week as a series of lightning strikes started six fires on the Salmon-Challis National Forest and one on public lands administered by the BLM.

Trail, Kidney, Feltham and Feltham Point were each discovered on June 30, all were started by lightning and burned less than a quarter acre. The fires were in an area approx. 30 miles west of Challis in the Trail Creek Drainage, suppressed by Challis firefighters who were delivered via helicopter rappel or who hiked. These fires were all in sub alpine fir at elevations over 8000 ft.

Banner – a lightning holdover discovered on July 2 approx 45 miles west/southwest of Challis at 7900 ft. elevation burned in dead and down fuel. The fire consumed one tenth of an acre and was suppressed by a couple of firefighters from the Challis helibase.

Cabin Creek – a lightning holdover was discovered on July 3, approx 30 miles southwest of Challis at 8500 ft. in elevation in grass, brush, and dead and down fuels. The fire consumed three quarters of an acre and was suppressed by six firefighters from the Challis and Salmon helibases and a Type 2 helicopter from Salmon that did bucket work.

On the 4th of July a Type 2 Helicopter, and Type 3 Helicopter from Salmon Helibase assisted BLM personnel in suppressing a three acre fire in the **Ten Mile** area near US 93 south of Salmon. This fire was also started by lightning and consumed grass, brush and mountain mahogany. The helicopter bucket drops allowed ground personnel to contain the fire within a couple hours after it started.

Smoke - The smoke that moved into central Idaho July 7 is coming from three large fires burning in Oregon and Washington and possibly from fires in California. As of 8:30 a.m. no new fires have been reported to Central Idaho Dispatch.